

**St. Paul's United Church**  
**SONG OF FAITH – WE SING OF GRACE**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2012**

\*When you see this sign, please stand as you are able.

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

*\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #266 Amazing Grace*  
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of abundant life, grant us grace.

**God of reconciliation, grant us grace.**

God of forgiveness, grant us grace.

**In the name of Jesus who gives us abundant life transform us. Amen**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

As we light this Christ candle, may it remind us that Christ  
is in us and in Our world.

INTROIT: **Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,  
I can feel His mighty power and His Grace.  
I can feel the brush of angels' wings  
I see glory on each face,  
surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

OPENING PRAYER (SAID IN UNISON)

**Amazing God, how can it be that in spite of our arrogance, our complacency, our shame, you should care for us and shower  
us with your endless grace. Thank you for this amazing grace in our lives and in our world.**

*\*HYMN #701 What Does the Lord Require of You*

THEME CONVERSATION

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN/LORD'S PRAYER

(Children may go up to Sunday school now)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (SAID IN UNISON)

**Holy God: without wanting to, many of us are dragging behind a large bag of regrets and sorrow for all those things we have  
done and all those things we have left undone. You realize, even more than we do, our self-absorption and the meagreness  
of compassion, our indifference to what is happening in the larger human family and to the earth. Forgive us, gracious God.  
Give us your grace. Piece together our brokenness, so that we and our world may be made whole.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God forgives, and calls all of us to confess our fears and failings with honesty and humility.

**God reconciles, and calls us to repent the part we have played in damaging our world, ourselves, and each other.**

God transforms, and calls us to protect the vulnerable, to pray for deliverance from evil, to work with God for the healing of the world, that all might have abundant life.

**We sing of grace.**

## WE HEAR THE WISDOM OF THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (SAID BY ALL)

**May we hear these ancient scriptures with trusting faith and gentle hope, with creative enthusiasm and honest doubt, rooted in the teachings of Jesus and grounded in your love. May we hear your call in scripture today. Amen**

### SCRIPTURE READING - Jeremiah 31: 31-34

INSERT – We Sing of Grace (you may follow along with  
the insert in the bulletin)

ANTHEM A Time for All Things Douglas E. Wagner

SERMON- “Song of Faith – WE SING OF GRACE”

## WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

### GIVING OF OUR GOOD AND GIFTS

*HYMN # 508 Just as I Am*

*\*DOXOLOGY: #VU 541*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures high and low; give thanks to God in love made known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN VU#421 Lead On, O Cloud of Presence*

\*COMMISSIONING/BENEDICTION

\* SUNG BLESSING

**Go in love; have no fear.**

**God will guide you, He is always near.**

**Go in Love; take His hand.  
God will hear you, He will understand.  
May His light forever shine upon you.  
May His peace be always in your heart.  
Go in love; face each day.  
God will lead you, He will show the way.  
Go in love and live in faith. Amen.**

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POSTLUDE Please allow the choir to recess before leaving the Sanctuary.

Ministers: All the People of God with the  
Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam

Lay Reader  
Director of Music  
Pre-Service Music  
Administrator  
Custodian

Marlis Dupuis  
Paul Sloan  
Rick Taylor  
Judy McConnell  
Mary Ellen Petticrew

*Phone 526-6077 Fax 526-4020*

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*Website: [stpaulsmidland.org](http://stpaulsmidland.org)*

*Office hours Monday thru Friday 9-12, 1-4pm*

## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

A special welcome to all new friends as we gather to celebrate God's presence in our lives. If you are a guest, visitor or newcomer, please make yourself known to us. If you have any questions, our greeters would be delighted to help you. Please put your name, mailing address and email address in our guest book so we may have a record of your visit. **Please join us for coffee in the Great Hall compliments of Property Committee.**

**Sermon Series:** This Sunday we are studying the second part of the "Song of Faith" (2006) you will find an insert of the first week in today's bulletin. The statement of faith seeks to provide a verbal picture of what The United Church of Canada understands its faith to be in its current historical, political, social, and theological context at the beginning of the 21st century. It is also a means of ongoing reflection and an invitation for the church to live out its convictions in relation to the world in which we live.

The church's faith is grounded in truths that are timeless. These truths, however, must be embraced anew by Christians of each generation and stated "in terms of the thoughts of their own age and with the emphasis their age needs" (Statement of Faith, 1940).

This is not the first time the United Church has formally expressed its collective faith. In the Basis of Union (1925), in the Statement of Faith (1940), and in A New Creed (1968), the United Church stated its faith in words appropriate to its time. This current statement of faith is offered within that tradition, and in response to the request of the 37th General Council (2000) for a "timely and contextual statement of faith" that especially engages "the church in conversation on the nature of the church (ecclesiology), ministry and the sacraments."

This statement of faith attempts to reflect the spirit of The United Church of Canada and to respond to various defining elements in our social, political, and historical context, including the place of the church in society, the cultural and intellectual setting in which we find ourselves, the meaning of “truth,” the impact of the market economy on our daily lives, and the growing issue of the meaning of “security.” These contextual elements are further explored in the appendices to this document.

This is not a statement for all time but for *our* time. In as much as the Spirit keeps faith with us, we can express our understanding of the Holy with confidence. And in as much as the Spirit is vast and wild, we recognize that our understanding of the Holy is always partial and limited. Nonetheless we have faith, and this statement collects the meaning of our song.

**ANNUAL REPORTS & TAX RECEIPTS ARE READY TODAY. COPIES OF THE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE BACK WINDOW IN THE CHURCH.**  
**TAX RECEIPTS ARE ON A TABLE IN THE PARLOUR. TO HELP SAVE ON STAMPS, PLEASE TAKE YOURS AND ANY NEIGHBOURS AND FRIENDS THAT ARE NOT HERE TODAY. THANK YOU!**

\*\*\*\*\*Kitchen Inventory is being done on Tuesday Jan 24th and the UCW ask if you have any **pans or dishes in the kitchen** please pick them up before Tuesday. Your assistance in this is greatly appreciated.

Louise & George Leck, Rachel Pendlebury and Ner Ta have been very busy this week cleaning up the **archives and our library**. Thank to everyone concerned for all their hard work.

Thank you to Marjorie Hornsby for all her help in the church office, with folding and stapling the annual reports.

**Schedule by Room - Weekly and Monthly Activities at St. Paul's**

<b>Monday</b>	Drop In Centre	8:00 – 10.30 p.m.	Gym
Monday	Beavers	6:00 – 7:00pm	Gym/Choir Rm
Monday	Cubs	7:00 - 8:30PM	Gym/Choir Rm
Monday	Vox Huronia	7:00 – 10:00 pm	Sanctuary
Monday	Yoga	5:00 to 8:00 pm	Rm # 10 (Spring & Fall)
1 <sup>st</sup> Monday	M&P	7:00 pm	Parlour
3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	The Circle	7:00 – 9:00	Parlour
Monday	Girl Guides Executive	7:00 – 9:00	Chapel (Oct, Dec, Feb, Apr)
<b>Tuesday</b>	Co-op Nursery School	10:30-11:30	Gym
Tuesday(not 1 <sup>st</sup> )	Scouts	7:00 to 9:00 pm	Gym
1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	UCW Executive	9:30 a.m.	Parlour
1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	Fellowship Club	7:00 – p.m.	Gym
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	UCW	12:30-4:00pm	Parlour
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	Worship Committee	11am	Minister office
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	Communication Committee	7:00 - p.m.	Parlour
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	Property Committee	7:00 - p.m.	Chapel
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	Scout Executive	7pm	Upstairs
4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday (Sept, Nov, Feb, June)	Official Board	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Parlour

<b>Wednesday</b>	Co-op Nursery School	10:30-11:30	Gym
Wednesday	Bible Study	11:30- 1:00	Parlour
<b>Thursday</b>	Co-op Nursery School	10:30-11:30	Gym
Thursday	Little Treble Makers	4-5pm	Rm #10
Thursday	Children's Comm Choir	6:30 – 8:30pm	Rm #10
Thursday	Pathfinders	6:30-8:30pm	SS Rm#1
Thursday	Venturers/Rovers	6:00 – 9:00	Log Cabin
Thursday	Church Choir	7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Chapel
1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday	Order of Eastern Star	4:00 – 11pm	Gym
2,3 <sup>rd</sup> & ,4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	Guides	6:30 – 8:30pm	Gym
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	Outreach Committee	2:00 – 4:00pm	Parlour
<b>Friday</b>	Co-op Nursery School	10:30-11:30	Gym
<b>Last Friday mth</b>	Faith Formation Family Night	5:00 – 9:00 pm	Gym
<b>Saturday</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> Day Adventist	9:00 am-1pm	Chapel
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b>	Faith Formation-Education	11:30-1:00pm	Upstairs Sunday School Room

If you are interested in more information on any of these Committees and groups, or see changes that need to be made, please call the church office at 705-526-6077.

**IN CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY YOU MAY CALL KAREN AT HOME AT 705-355-0224 OTHERWISE PLEASE CALL CHURCH AT 705-526-6077. KAREN NOW HAS HER OWN EMAIL ADDRESS: [MINSPUCMIDLAND@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MINSPUCMIDLAND@GMAIL.COM). YOU ARE INVITED TO EMAIL KAREN DIRECTLY AT THIS EMAIL ADDRESS.**

Please keep the following people in your prayers: Milne Dick at home, Ofelia Fullerton in GBHB, Norma Graham at home, Amara Van der Zwan, Doug Mosley at home, Frank Mustard at home, Joan Doolittle and Evelyn Banks in Hillcrest in your prayers and anyone else who may need our support by prayer at this time.

**2011 Annual Meeting & Report:** The Annual church meeting is scheduled for Sunday January 29<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will immediately following the morning service and everyone is encouraged to attend!! Copies of the Annual report are on the back window, of the church please bring with you to the Annual meeting next week.

**Bible Study** is on Wednesday at 11:30am to 1pm in the parlour, come join us! Bring a bag lunch, coffee and tea will be provided, all are welcome! We are studying the “Song of Faith” which we start in church today.

**Par & Giving Envelopes:** If you have not received a set of envelopes or you would like to go on PAR (your donation deducted automatically from your bank account each month) please contact the church office at **705-526-6077**. **We encourage anyone giving on a regular basis to use envelopes or PAR so they can receive a tax receipt at the end of the year!!!**

See posters showing the line-up of talent Brookside music is bringing to the church in February and March:

Feb 8 – TorQ-Percussion Ensemble – Tickets \$20

March 7 – Jelena Milojevic – Accordion – Tickets \$20

March 24 – Carmen – Tickets \$40 – Students \$25

Tickets can be purchased from Johnstone's Musicland. See poster for more information.

**Drop In Centre:** Is in need of people to help on Monday mornings, especially someone who would be willing to step in for Bea Nayduk when she is away on holidays, if you are able to help, call Bea at 705-528-0959

### **We Sing of Grace – Sunday, January 22, 2012**

Made in the image of God,

we yearn for the fulfillment that is life in God.

Yet we choose to turn away from God.

We surrender ourselves to sin,

    a disposition revealed in selfishness, cowardice, or apathy.

Becoming bound and complacent

    in a web of false desires and wrong choices,

    we bring harm to ourselves and others.

This brokenness in human life and community

    is an outcome of sin.

Sin is not only personal

    but accumulates

    to become habitual and systemic forms

    of injustice, violence, and hatred.

We are all touched by this brokenness:

    the rise of selfish individualism

    that erodes human solidarity;

    the concentration of wealth and power

    without regard for the needs of all;

    the toxins of religious and ethnic bigotry;

the degradation of the blessedness of human bodies  
and human passions through sexual exploitation;  
the delusion of unchecked progress and limitless growth  
that threatens our home, the earth;  
the covert despair that lulls many into numb complicity  
with empires and systems of domination.

We sing lament and repentance.

Yet evil does not—cannot—undermine or overcome  
the love of God.

God forgives, and calls all of us to confess our fears and failings  
with honesty and humility.

God reconciles, and calls us to repent the part we have played  
in damaging our world, ourselves, and each other.

God transforms, and calls us to protect the vulnerable,  
to pray for deliverance from evil,  
to work with God for the healing of the world,  
that all might have abundant life.

We sing of grace.